THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). The Workers' Union of the Government Opium & Alkaloid Works Undertaking, Neemuch, have requested the Government to run the Alkaloid Plant in two shifts.

M/s. National Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (NIDC), the engineering consultants for the Alkaloid Plant at Neemuch have opined that it would be advisable if vessel to vessel matenal balance is worked out by the Piant Officials before straightway starting with second shift operation so as to confirm that there is no hold-up at any stage of the process. Action, as per the technical advice of NIDC has been initiated.

[*English*]

Printing of Stamps at Security Press, Nasik

3735. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the stamps (postal, revenue and court fee) printed at Security Press, Nasik are not properly gummed;

(b) if so, the value of stamps lying as dead stock as a result thereof;

(c) the percentage of permissible wastage in processing and the acutual wastage during 1990-91; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) There have been some complaints from Department of Posts regarding inadequate gumming of stamps.

(b) There is no dead stock of stamps. Strict instructions have been issued to ensure proper gumming of stamps.

(c) The permissible wastage percentage in processing is 2.5. During the year 1990-91, the gumming work as awarded to M/s. Shree Vindhya Paper Mill and M/s. Gandhi Industrial Corporation. The wastage percentage of paper gummed and supplied by M/s. Gandhi Industrial Corporation was 2.38. Out of the 1202 reels supplied by M/s. Shree Vidhya Paper Mill, 1107 reels have been consumed so far and the balance 95 reels have yet to be consumed. The wastage percentage was 5.7% for the consumed lot.

(d) The matter has been taken up with M/s. Shree Vidhya Paper Mill by the India Security Press, Nasik Road. The suitability report for the supplies and by the party will be released only after the finalisation of paper account. Payment will be made to the party only after the finalisation of the paper account.

Supervision of Operations of Banks and Financial Institutions

3736. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SEKHARA MURTHY:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a regulatory body with adequate statutory powers for consolidated supervision of the operations of banks and financial institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if no, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). Government had set up

a High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri M. Narasimham to examine all aspects relating to the structure, organisation, functions and procedures of the financial system. The Committee has submitted its report to the Government on 20th November, 1991. The report of the Committee will be proposed on the basis of detailed examination of its recommendations in consultation with Reserve Bank of India and other concerned agencies.

[*Translation*]

Production and Export of Cotton

3737. SHRI RAM SHARAN YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of cotton in the country during the current year so far;

(b) the number of bales of cotton used for manufacturing cotton cloth this year;

(c) this likely effect on cotton growers of the reduction in Excise duty on man-made cloth and synthetic fire as proposed to new textile policy;

(d) whether the Government contemplate to have a buffer stock of cotton or to increase its export; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The Cotton Advisory Board at its meeting held on 29th August, 1991 had estimated the production cotton during 1991-92 season at 130 lakh bales. However, due to subsequent failure of rains in some parts of the country, the expected production is likely to be lower than the earlier estimate.

(b) During September - October, 1991 about 13 lakh bales of cotton is estimated to have been used by the Mill/Power/loom/ Handloom Sector for manufacture of cotton cloth. During the cotton season 1990-91, about 83 lakh bales of cotton was used by these sectors for manufacture of cotton cloth.

(c) Government has not taken any final decision in the matter of review of the Textile Policy of 1985.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Release of Smugglers

3738. SHRI RAM SHARAN YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of smugglers released during each of the last three years; and

(b) the number of smugglers released from house arrest by the Advisory Board during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). The total number of smugglers released, including those released by the Advisor Boards, during each of the last three years under COFEPOSA Act indicated in the table below:

Year	*Released by Advisory Board*	*Total releases*
1989	227	731
1990	322	948
1991 (Provisional upto No., 1991)	146	613